

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:

including, for each of a number of selected events, an indicator within the software program that records the selected event, the indicator including a text string created by a software developer and descriptive of the selected event;

assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string;

creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string; and

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the program; and prior to transferring the program to a customer.

releasing the program for retail sale.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating, on the computing device, a file of the recorded events including the unique tag for each event;

receiving, from the computing device, the file of the recorded events;

processing the file, by replacing into the file, the text string corresponding to each tag within the file; and

outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program,

thereby providing a software provider a text record of the events taking place in the program to determine how the program may have failed.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is a function call.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
  
as the program executes on the computing device, limiting the size of the file of the recorded events.
5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
  
in response to a failure of the program on the computing device, automatically transmitting the file to a repository accessible by the software provider.
6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein the failure is a crash of the program.
7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising including within selected indicators an identifier, the identifier identifying information unwanted by a software provider.
8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
  
filtering out, prior to transmittal of the file to the repository, selected data indicated by the identifier as unwanted information.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:  
  
searching for a text string within the software program created by a software developer and descriptive of a selected event;  
  
assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string found;  
  
creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string; and

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the program; and-  
releasing the program for retail sale.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system having a processor, a memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute a method for obtaining information regarding events to be taking place within a software program to be used by a customer on a computing device, comprising:

searching for a text string within the software program created by a software developer and descriptive of a selected event;

assigning and including a unique tag corresponding to each text string found;

creating an index mapping each tag to the corresponding text string; ~~and~~

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the program; and-  
releasing the program for retail sale.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for recording program information, by a software provider, about events to be taking place within a software program executing on a computer to be used by a customer, comprising:

including, for each of a number of selected events, an indicator within the software program that records the selected event, the indicator including a text string created by a software developer and descriptive of the selected event;

coding the text string with a unique tag corresponding to each text string;

creating a decoding file mapping each unique tag to the corresponding text string; ~~and~~

prior to retail sale, removing each text string from the program; and prior to transferring the  
~~program to a customer.~~

releasing the program for retail sale.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving, from the customer, a file of the recorded events, the file including the unique tag for each event;  
decoding the file by mapping the coded tag with the corresponding text string; and  
outputting a text string record of the events which took place within the software program,  
thereby providing the software provider with a text record of the events taking place in the program to determine how the program may have failed.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
deleting the file when the program closes normally, without crashing.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 7, wherein the unwanted information is sensitive or personal information about the customer.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein removing each text string from the program prior to transferring the program to a customer includes deleting each text string from the program but at least temporarily storing said each text string incident to said deleting.